letters@metro.us

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JAY-Z AND JT? REALLY?! {page 10}

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RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Philadelphia Schools Superintendent William R. Hite Jr. speaks at the hearing. A parent holds a sign in the background that reads "Keep Schools Open."

Superintendent grilled over plan to close schools

After announcing 37 district schools would be shuttered, Hite says he will revise his plan by next week He remained mum on the reasoning at a hearing yesterday City Council frustrated {page 02}

GETTY IMAGES

Fashion Week. Highlights

▶ Preview Fall 2013's looks from Marc by Marc Jacobs, Donna Karan and Phillip Lim 3.1, featured here. {pages 16-17}

wellbeing

Chocoholics Anonymous

Hey, sweet tooth, it's candy season! It's not all bad for you {page 18}

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PLUS:

JASON SCHWARTZMAN, GENTLEMAN {page 14}

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In the news

Digital democracy at National Constitution Center

California Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom will discuss American democracy in the digital age Wednesday at the National Constitution Center. Newsom, who also served two terms as mayor of San Francisco from 2004 through 2011, will discuss, along with Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, how "ordinary citizens can use digital tools to dissolve political gridlock and transform American democracy." The event is sold out, but will be streamed live at the center's website, www.constitutioncenter.org, starting at 6:30 p.m. METRO

Local tweet

"Nothing like the smell of cigarettes, mashed potatoes, and cat litter in the morning. #septa"

@SEPTATRAVELWOES'S OLFACTORY SYSTEM WAS OFFENDED DURING YESTERDAY'S COMMUTE

In the news

'Parade punch' cop in court

PHILADELPHIA. Former Philadelphia Police Lt. Jonathan Josey appeared in court yesterday to face charges of simple assault for allegedly punching 39-year-old Aida Guzman in the face during a Puerto Rican Day Parade last year. Josey claimed that he attempted to swat a beer bottle from Guzman's hand and that striking her in the face was an accident. The judge is expected to rule on Feb. 26. METRO

Two judges plead guilty in traffic case

PHILADELPHIA. Two of the nine judges indicted last week in a federal probe of traffic ticket-fixing pleaded guilty in federal court yesterday. Bucks County judge Warren Hogeland and Delaware County judge Ken Miller were both senior judges who would help with traffic court proceedings when asked. Hogeland yesterday pleaded guilty to fixing a ticket for Miller's son, while Miller pleaded guilty to arranging to fix a ticket for the son of a court clerk in Delaware County. The two men have reportedly agreed to cooperate with prosecutors and may testify against the other judges charged. METRO

Four-hour standoff leads to arrest

KENSINGTON. Police took an unidentified man into custody after he allegedly barricaded himself for four hours Monday night inside a home on the 2000 block of Venango Street. Officers responded to the house around 11:15 p.m. for a report of a person with a gun who had barricaded himself. No injuries were reported. METRO

Coming but crpytic: Week of waiting to find out about changes to school closings

- Superintendent: District facing $1.3B deficit
- He cites loss of students, 'dismal' academics

RICARD LARMA/METRO

▶ City Council members discussed the school closings in a meeting yesterday.

Begging for the survival of 37 schools in the Philadelphia School District, community leaders pleaded with City Council members during an emotional four-hour hearing yesterday.

"Many of our schools are already struggling to build support for our youth, and yet every year more and more resources are taken to improve those supports," said Erika Almiron, executive director of Juntos, a Latino immigrant organization.

Almiron was among many at the meeting who were stumped when Superintendent William R. Hite said he would revise his plan to shutter the schools, but said no new details would be made public until next week.

Hite said the school district is facing a $1.3 billion deficit over five years. The district lost 60,000 students in the last 15 years. Councilman David Oh asked if it's too late to change the plan so it is motivated by better education and not simply by "saving dollars."

Closings are necessary evil

Hite called the recommendation to close the schools drastic but necessary.

The district has been criticized, he said, for proposing to close schools in poor, mostly black neighborhoods. Yet, under closer surveillance, "you will see that their student achievement levels are dismal," he said.

"Even if we had more money — if only for a year — it is difficult to justify investing in schools that are not serving the needs of our children," Hite said.

Hite said the district would save about $28 million yearly and $140 million a year over five years if the 37 schools closed. But this does not include relocation costs of an estimated 17,000 students.

Hite said past mismanagement of the district's finances is what led to the current financial issues.

Tommy Rowan
letters@metro.us

Implications of closures

- From 2005 to 2012, 11 Philadelphia school district properties have been sold, leased or repurposed in Philadelphia, according to a report by the PEW Charitable Trust.
- **If all 37 schools are to close**, it would be one of the nation's largest single-year closings, according to a PEW report.
- **While charter schools are candidates** to buy and reuse some of the 37 properties if they become available, there is a fear that charter schools can further reduce enrollment in Philadelphia School District-run schools. The school district's governing body, the Harrisburg-based School Reform Commission, has the power to cap charter-school expansions for five years, according to a PEW report.
- **Philadelphia has seen a 75-percent growth** in charter-school enrollment from 2005 to 2011, according to a PEW report.

Stripper sues club after severing thumb

ISTOCK

▶ Exotic dancing: More dangerous than it looks

An exotic dancer has sued Philadelphia gentleman's club Delilah's Den for more than $50,000 in damages after she cut off her thumb while performing on an allegedly faulty piece of equipment.

In a suit filed Friday in the county court of common pleas, Sarah Berry, 35, of Roxborough, says she was practicing for Delilah's annual Diamond G-String Competition by performing an aerial maneuver on what court documents call "a piece of aerial apparatus known as a 'half moon.'"

The bar suspended from the ceiling was allegedly designed and created exclusively for the club to use in the contest.

According to the complaint, Berry was using the half moon "in its intended and foreseeable manner" in July of 2011 when her right thumb was permanently amputated, reportedly sliced by a sharp edge of the metal equipment. The suit alleges the half moon was poorly designed and not properly manufactured, inspected or tested.

Berry is seeking compensation for past and future medical bills and wage loss, as well as damages for pain, suffering disfigurement, embarrassment and humiliation.

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GETTY IMAGES

▶ Matusiewicz got into a shoot-out outside the building before taking his own life.

Police release details of Del. courthouse shooting

Delaware State Police yesterday released more information about Monday morning's shooting at the New Castle County Courthouse that killed three people — including alleged gunman Thomas Matusiewicz — and injured two Capitol police officers.

Investigators said 68-year-old Matusiewicz entered the courthouse lobby around 7:40 a.m. with his 45-year-old son David, who was scheduled to appear for a child-support matter involving his ex-wife Christine Belford.

According to police, the younger Matusiewicz proceeded through a secure checkpoint and into the courtroom while his father remained in the lobby. When Belford entered the building with her friend, 45-year-old Laura Mulford, Thomas Matusiewicz allegedly took out a .45-caliber semiautomatic handgun and opened fire on the women at close range.

Authorities said Belford was hit in the chest and Mulford was shot as she attempted to flee. They were both pronounced dead at the Christiana Hospital Trauma Center.

Matusiewicz then allegedly encountered several Delaware Capitol police officers as he tried to leave the building and engaged them in a gun battle.

Two officers — Michael Manley, 42, and Steven Rineheart, 50 — were shot in their ballistic vests. They were treated at Christiana for minor injuries and released.

Matusiewicz was shot once in the upper body and once in the head. An autopsy revealed his head wound was self-inflicted and determined his cause of death to be suicide.

David Matusiewicz was interviewed by detectives, who determined he was in violation of a federal probation stemming from convictions for bank fraud and international parental kidnapping, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

He was taken into custody and is being held for a hearing, which is set for Feb. 15.

Alex Wigglesworth
awigglesworth@metro.us

Previous precedings

In 2009, David Matusiewicz pleaded guilty to bank fraud and international parental kidnapping and was sentenced to four years in prison and five years supervised release.

According to court documents filed Monday, Matusiewicz allegedly violated that probation by lying to his probation officer about where he stayed during a January trip to Delaware, falling behind on his child-support payments and failing to pay penalties and restitution stemming from the case. Matusiewicz traveled through Mexico, Costa Rica and Panama before U.S. marshals found him in Nicaragua and arrested him in March 2009.

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Circus. Elephants

▶ The elephants will be the main attraction at this week's set of shows.

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

The circus is coming to town

SOUTH PHILADELPHIA. A stampede of elephants and horses paraded up 11th Street yesterday. The massive animals were unloaded from a freight train south of the stadium complex, then led by trainers to the Wells Fargo Center, where the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Built to Amaze circus will hold 11 shows today through Sunday. ● METRO

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Defense chief urges delay in 'devastating' $46B in budget cuts

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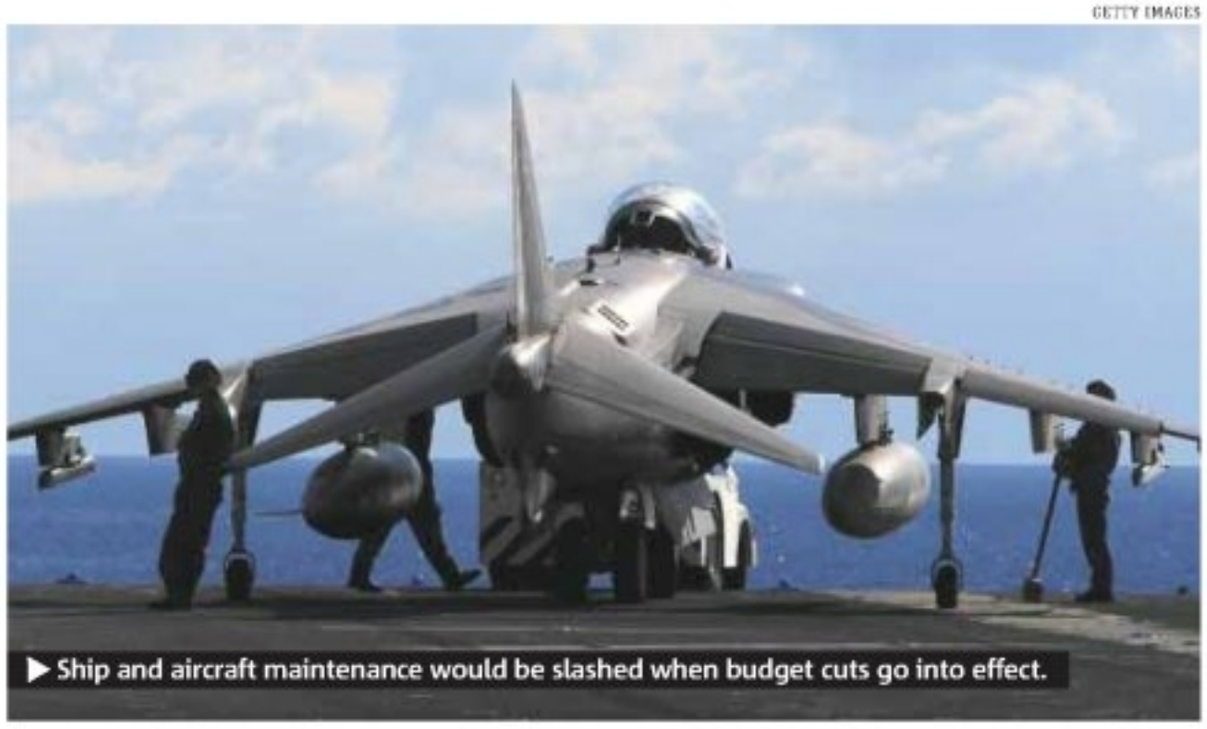

▶ Ship and aircraft maintenance would be slashed when budget cuts go into effect.

The Pentagon's civilian and military leaders warned in dire terms yesterday that $46 billion in budget cuts due to go into effect in two weeks would erode the nation's ability to go to war and appealed to Congress to delay the reductions.

The automatic, across-the-board cuts will force the Pentagon to put most of its 800,000 civilian employees on unpaid leave for 22 days, slash ship and aircraft maintenance and curtail training, Deputy Defense Secretary Ashton Carter told the Senate Armed Services Committee. "These devastating events are no longer distant problems. The wolf is at the door," Carter said as he and military chiefs appealed for Congress to take action to delay the cuts known as sequestration from taking effect beginning March 1.

For months, Pentagon officials have been painting a doomsday scenario if Congress does not come up with a replacement for the sequester. The cuts are already law, but when Congress enacted them in August 2011, lawmakers never intended for them to happen. The thinking was that they would be so abhorrent that Democrats and Republicans would come up with an alternative budget-cutting plan. **REUTERS**

Foreign policy risks

Underlining the risks facing the United States, the hearing took place just hours after North Korea's third nuclear test — something Defense Secretary Leon Panetta told Pentagon employees represented a "serious threat" to America.

Tensions with Iran over its nuclear program are also simmering, and General Mark Welsh, chief of staff of the Air Force, acknowledged future cuts could make it more difficult for the U.S. military to wage a preventive strike, if necessary.

.8M

Cuts will force the Pentagon to put most of its 800,000 civilian employees on unpaid leave for 22 days.

News in brief

Deputy killed in shoot-out with suspected fugitive

A gunman thought to be a fugitive ex-cop barricaded himself inside a cabin in the mountains northeast of Los Angeles yesterday and traded gunfire with sheriff's deputies, killing one, authorities said.

Two San Bernardino County sheriff's deputies were struck by gunfire and one of them was killed, Sheriff John McMahon told reporters.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Dorner

Police said the man they believe to be Christopher Dorner, surfaced after breaking into a home near the ski-resort community of Big Bear Lake, tying up a couple there and stealing their pickup truck.

A state game warden apparently on the lookout for Dorner exchanged gunshots with the driver of the stolen truck about 20 minutes later, and the suspect later abandoned the vehicle and fled on foot into the surrounding forest.

The gunman ultimately barricaded himself inside another cabin and engaged in a shootout with officers who closed in on him.

The cabin where Dorner was on fire as authorities try to determine whether the murder suspect is dead or alive. **REUTERS**

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Obama announces withdrawal of 34K troops in SOTU speech

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▶ Obama announced that by this time next year, 34,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan will have returned home.

President Barack Obama announced in his State of the Union address last night that 34,000 troops — about half the U.S. force in Afghanistan — will return home by early 2014.

Obama and Afghan President Hamid Karzai last month agreed to speed the handover of combat operations in Afghanistan to Afghan forces. There are currently about 66,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

It is the latest step toward unwinding the U.S. involvement in the unpopular war in Afghanistan.

Washington's NATO allies have also been steadily reducing their troop numbers despite doubts about the ability of Afghan forces to shoulder full responsibility for security.

Afghan forces were expected to lead military operations across the country by this spring, with U.S. and international forces assisting through training and advising but no longer leading combat operations.

Further troop reductions will continue through the end of 2014 as Afghans take full responsibility for their security. By the end of 2014, the United States war in Afghanistan will come to to a close. **REUTERS**

66K

There are currently about 66,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

In the news

GETTY IMAGES

Two charged in killing of inauguration teen

CHICAGO. Two reputed members of a Chicago street gang were charged on Monday in the murder of a 15-year-old girl who was gunned down days after performing with her high school band at inauguration festivities for President Barack Obama, police said.

The slaying of Hadiya Pendleton on Jan. 29, eight days after the majorette appeared at an inauguration event in Washington, highlighted a rash of deadly shootings in Chicago and became a rallying cry for advocates for tougher gun control nationally.

Two men identified by police as gang members, Micheail Ward, 18, and Kenneth Williams, 20, both of Chicago, were charged with first-degree murder and attempted murder in connection with the shooting. **REUTERS**

Two Maryland students dead in murder-suicide shooting

WASHINGTON. Two University of Maryland students died early yesterday in an apparent murder-suicide shooting, and a third was wounded in the incident, police said.

It began shortly after the gunman set a fire around 1 a.m. in the basement of his house near the campus in College Park. When his roommates came to see what was happening, he shot them in front of the house before turning the gun on himself. **REUTERS**

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Vatican preps send-off for pope as speculation over successor begins

Cardinals around the world began informal contacts to discuss who should next lead the Church through a period of major crisis and the Vatican said it planned a big send-off for Pope Benedict before he becomes the first pontiff in centuries to resign.

At yesterday's news conference on how the pope plans to spend the next two weeks before he steps out of the limelight, the Vatican also disclosed that the 85-year-old Benedict has been wearing a pacemaker since before he was elected pope in 2005. It said no specific illness led him to resign, merely old age and diminishing mental and physical strength.

It also said he would not play any role in the running of the Church after his Feb. 28 resignation. The shock announcement sent the Vatican scrambling to change venues of some papal activities so that more people can see him before the resignation. REUTERS

ANDREAS SOLARO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Rosarys with pictures showing Pope Benedict XVI are displayed in a shop near the Vatican.

"The pope has said in his declaration that he will use his time for prayer and reflection and will not have any responsibility for guidance of the Church."
FATHER FEDERICO LOMBARDI

Last Mass

- Today, the pope was to have led a traditional Ash Wednesday service at a small church in Rome, but the event has been moved to St. Peter's Basilica for what will likely be his last Mass in public.
- His last general audience has been moved to St. Peter's Square, which can hold hundreds of thousands.

A more catholic candidate ...

Speculation has grown that the Church could appoint its first non-European leader to reflect the growing weight of regions such as Africa or Latin America.

"It could be time for a black pope, or a yellow one, or a red one, or a Latin American," said Guatemala's Archbishop Oscar Julio Vian Morales after Benedict's announcement. REUTERS

42% Catholics Latin America or Africa

Brazil's Claudio Hummes

Philippines' Luis Tagle

Nigeria's Peter Turkson

US's Timothy Dolan

... for a more modern world

The next pope must try to revive Catholicism's influence in the face of modernity, and after sex-abuse and corruption scandals plagued Benedict's eight-year reign.

While cardinals such as the recently deceased Carlo Maria Martini, archbishop of Milan, called the church's leadership "200 years out of date," Benedict XVI stood for the old guard, speaking out against abortion, contraception and the idea that women could be priests even in the Anglican church. The Conclave that will choose a new pontiff must face the question of who can reinvent the millennia-old institution and inspire a dwindling flock, with academics and bookmakers putting clerics from Africa among the favorites. BLOOMBERG

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myentertainment

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson's take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Meet Eau de Pizza Hut

Let's cut to the chase on this item: **Pizza Hut** has launched a promotional perfume called Eau de Pizza Hut. The chain is giving away 24 bottles of the stuff. To get your own, send tweets to @PizzaHut with the hashtag "LastMinuteLovers." Each package also includes a $20 Pizza Hut gift card for Big Pizza Sliders or Lovers Pizza.

"The cologne has a slightly sweet base scent of freshly rising dough, but finishes decidedly savory with hints of Italian spice like oregano, vine-ripened tomato sauce, the crispness of fresh-sliced vegetables and all wrapped by wafts of cheesy goodness," said **Ashlee Firsten** of Aromachology, a custom perfumery in New York, in a press release. "It's really a quite complex combination of aromas that results in the hunger-inducing smell of a fresh Pizza Hut pizza."

"Wafts of cheesy goodness"? Wasn't that formula already patented for **Debbie Gibson**'s Electric Youth perfume?

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Timberlake and Jay-Z collaborated on JT's most recent single, "Suit & Tie." We don't know about you, but we were seriously hoping for another "wardrobe malfunction" with this performance.

Is it true? Timberlake and Jay-Z to rock your body?

The biggest summer blockbuster tour has (almost) been announced: There's a good chance that **Justin Timberlake** and **Jay-Z** will team up to out-cool a stadium near you.

"We're definitely going to go on tour," Timberlake told the New York Post on the Grammy red carpet Sunday. "I don't know how much I should say."

Quoted

"We're definitely going to go on tour. I don't know how much I should say."

TIMBERLAKE

Rolling Stone echoes this off-the-cuff remark, saying the powers that be are working on a 12-stadium tour. The tour will support Timberlake's new album, "The 20/20 Experience" (featuring John Stossel ... in our dreams). And since **Beyonce** is also touring this summer, Jay-Z needs to find ways to kill time.

Possible titles?

Ideas for the tour name:

- Jay-Teez
- Big Pimpin', Little N'Syncin'
- Young, Gifted and Black (and White)
- 99 Problems (But An Ugly Wife Ain't One)

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Lea Michele is really quite busy, Rose McGowan is having trouble with candy, Garry Shandling is thinking of quitting too and Steve Martin is making stuff up.

@msleamichele
Meetings, meetings, and mooooore meetings today!

@rosemcgowan
Just chipped my front tooth on a Charm pop. Oh, the irony. I look like I should be drinking moonshine.

@GarryShandling
I know how the Pope feels. It's exhausting.

@SteveMartinToGo
BREAKING NEWS: Donald Trump takes flattering photo.

Lea Michele

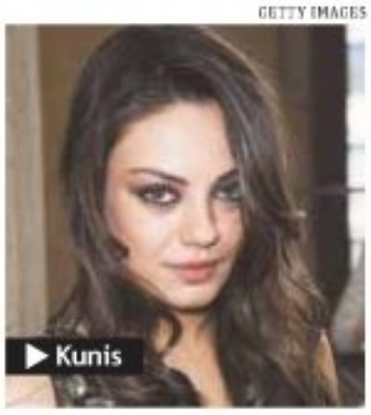
Talking points

Swift Google Alerts herself

Taylor Swift knows there are people out there talking about her love life, but she's doing her best to ignore it. "I'm sure if I looked up the latest Google Alerts rumor, it would say I'm chasing somebody who doesn't like me as much as I like him. People love that angle on me," Swift tells Elle magazine. "They're like, 'Oh, Taylor, coming on too strong again, chasing boys.' I never chase boys. They don't like it!" And while her recent dig at ex **Harry Styles** at the Grammys might suggest otherwise, Swift insists she's not one to vent her anger. "I don't think I've ever yelled at an ex-boyfriend," she says. "Ever. I'm not a yeller. I'm not a fit-thrower. If something is done, it's done."

Kunis on her single days

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Kunis

Mila Kunis may have gone pretty quickly from a nine-year relationship with **Macaulay Culkin** to her current beau, former "That '70s Show" co-star **Ashton Kutcher**, but she still looks back fondly on her bachelorette days. "For four years I was single," she tells Allure magazine, calling her days without a boyfriend "an amazing time." "I love being single," she says.

A 4-year-old makes more than you

Vivienne Jolie-Pitt, the 4-year-old daughter of **Angelina Jolie** and **Brad Pitt**, is already earning some impressive cash. The toddler was reportedly paid $3,000 a week for a small role in her mom's upcoming film, "Maleficent," according to contracts obtained by TMZ.

ScarJo auditioned for 'Les Miz'

Scarlett Johansson admits that she had a shot at **Anne Hathaway**'s Oscar-nominated role in "Les Miserables," but voice trouble plagued her audition. "I sang my little heart out," Johansson tells Broadway.com. "I auditioned with laryngitis."

Timberlake snaps to it

1: Is this a new **Justin Timberlake** move, or the most exaggerated Carlton Banks dance of all time? JT rocked The Hollywood Palladium on Sunday.

2: Julianne Hough must be a pro at radio interviews since she's dating Ryan Seacrest. The actress visited Sirius XM Studios in NYC on Tuesday to promote "Safe Haven."

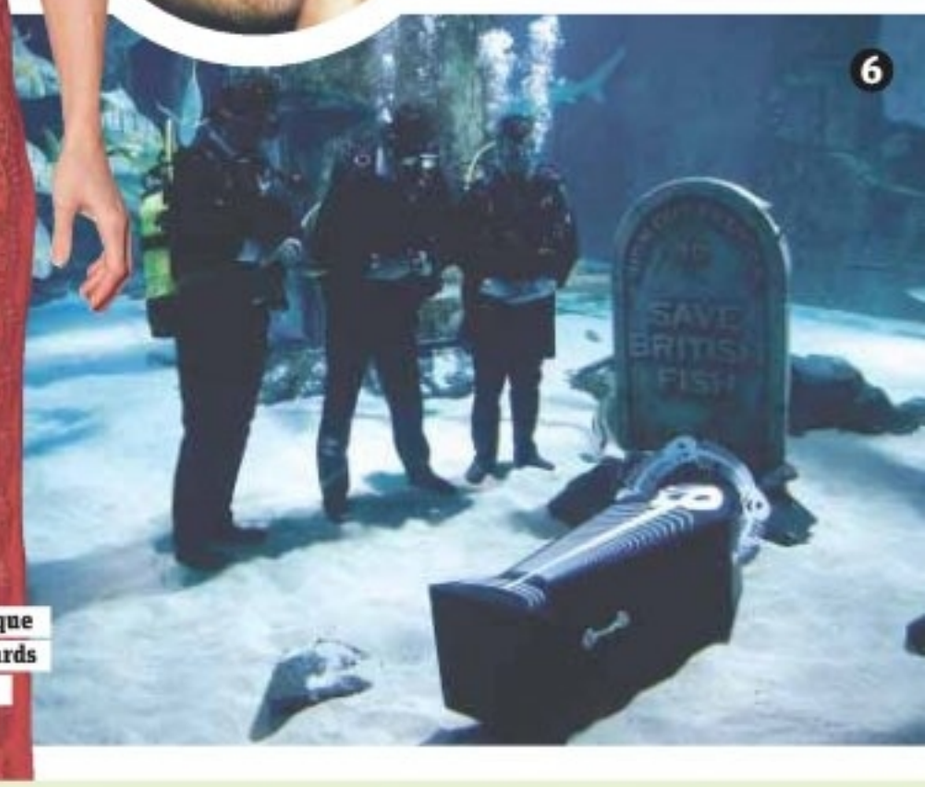
4: Beards of a feather flock together: **Ben Affleck** and **George Clooney** headed to the after party for the EE British Academy Film Awards in London on Sunday.

5: "Oh God, if one more reporter asks about my affair with the nanny, I'm going to croak," we imagine **Jude Law** thinking here at the Berlin press conference for his new film, "Side Effects," on Tuesday.

6: We had to throw this one in because it's an underwater funeral, meant to highlight the importance of British marine life, that took place at the London Aquarium on Tuesday.

1: KEVIN MAZUR/WIRE IMAGE
2: ANNA WEBBER/GETTY IMAGES
3: MARK CUTHBERT/UK PRESS
4: TIM WHITBY/GETTY IMAGES
5: SEAN GALLUP/GETTY IMAGES
6: JOHN PHILLIPS/UK PRESS

Kate Hudson was a statuesque beauty at the Elle Style Awards in London on Monday.



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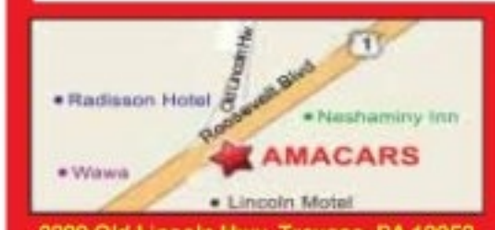

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Lasse Hallstrom on his 'Safe Haven'

Director talks about his second Nicholas Sparks adaptation, awards and ABBA Readers can expect new twists and turns in the film version, but he's not worried about upsetting anyone

The romantic thriller "Safe Haven" marks Swedish director Lasse Hallstrom's second time bringing a Nicholas Sparks novel to the screen, and this time around he felt much freer with the source material — which is just how he likes it.

How did your second go at directing a Nicholas Sparks adaptation differ from "Dear John"?

This time we were free to improvise around the material and come up with our own ideas. Now that film is gone, we can roll those cameras for 40 minutes and there's not a cost involved apart from time. You can't tell the difference between film and digital anymore. So I take advantage of that new technique. I roll those two cameras forever and ever. It creates a free atmosphere and it liberates the actors, I think.

Do you worry about Sparks' devoted readership being unhappy with changes from the book?

I can't be concerned about that, and I don't think there will be a fan base that will be upset over the fact that we added some very small twists and turns, observations that may not be in the novel. I don't think that's a worry.

Have you thought about writing more? You haven't really done a screenplay since "My Life as a Dog."

Yes, I have. I'm desperately wanting to carve out time to write my own story. I am actually going to see if I can get time now — like, tomorrow — to get back to writing, to do something maybe in Swedish next. Something set in the '50s, my own "My Life as a Dog" story. In Sweden I had to write my own material. Directors wrote their own stuff. But here it's a different system, so I got caught up in that. But I've been kind of ghostwriting. Even on this film: There's a script, but I've been doing my own outline of the story. So I go out with my outline, and the rest of the crew is holding onto a script that I'm not worried too much about.

And Nicholas Sparks doesn't mind?

He doesn't mind. He's not there. He's busy promoting.

How did you feel about the unexpected nod "Salmon Fishing in the Yemen" got from the Golden Globes?

Oh, I really appreciated that. I must say, I think the jury there made a good point in selecting it. I think they got some reminders, but I don't think there was a campaign. So I really appreciated that, and it was great to be back in that awards circuit. I've been away from it for nine or 10 years, and it gave me a taste for more of that. It keeps you busy between December and February.

RELATIVITY MEDIA

▶ Hallstrom, right, works to create a "free atmosphere" on his movie sets — with the blessing of source material author Nicholas Sparks, left.

Q&A

Since you've worked with them before, do you have a favorite ABBA song?

I do. It's called "Under Attack."

For some reason I like that the best. I haven't done a video for it, maybe that's why. Almost all the other songs I've done videos for in those days.

Ned Ehrbar
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TV watch list

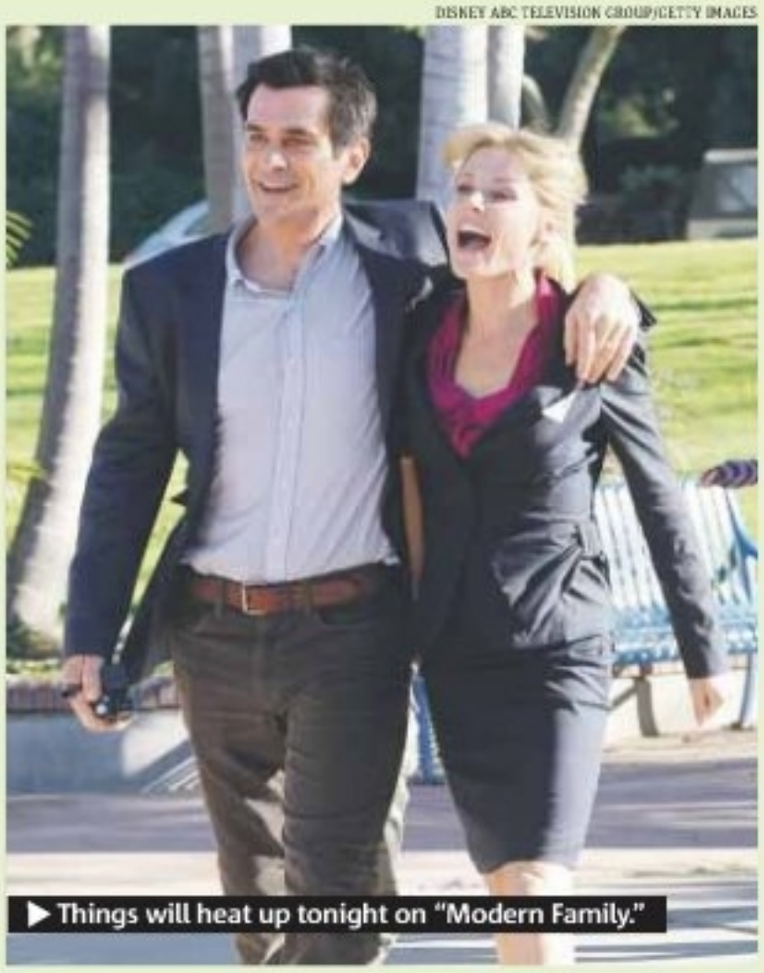
'Survivor: Caramoan – Fans vs. Favorites'

REALITY. Longtime "Survivor" fans will rejoice at the latest incarnation of the popular island-based reality show, which enters its 26th season tonight. This round finds 10 former castaways competing against 10 superfans.
8 p.m., Season premiere, CBS

'Inside the Actors Studio'

TALK SHOW. Oscar nominee Hugh Jackman makes his second appearance on the long-running talk-fest, this time stopping by to chat with James Lipton about portraying Wolverine and "Les Miz" protagonist Jean Valjean. We just hope the interview will feature Jackman's signature tap-dancing.
8 p.m., Bravo

DISNEY ABC TELEVISION GROUP/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Things will heat up tonight on "Modern Family."

'Modern Family'

COMEDY. Some of the best "Modern Family" episodes come in conjunction with Valentine's Day, when Phil and Claire don their alter egos, Clive Bixby and Juliana, and embark on some sort of attempt at romantic shenanigans that are destined to run amok.
9 p.m., ABC

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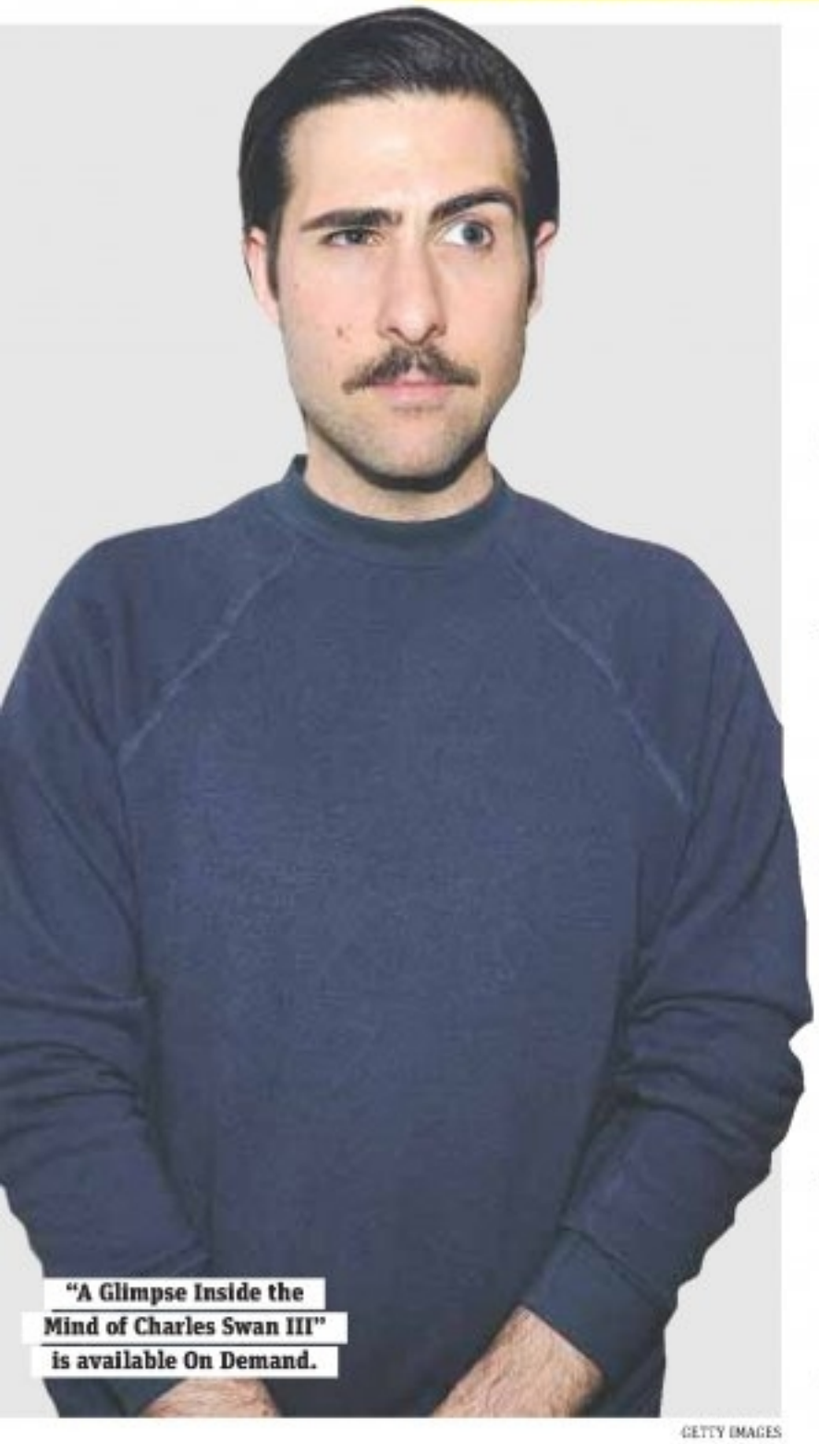

"A Glimpse Inside the Mind of Charles Swan III" is available On Demand.

GETTY IMAGES

The affable Jason Schwartzman

One of the stars of 'A Glimpse Inside the Mind of Charles Swan III' is happy to chat about the film — or shoes, or anything else

Jason Schwartzman's Doc Martins are in bad shape. "In fact, they have holes in the bottoms of them," he says, staring down at the scuffed shoes. "Is shoe polish just basically painting your shoes? These are the kinds of questions you just shouldn't ask out loud."

A conversation with Schwartzman can go on like this for a very long time. This guy is great for a chat, and we're happy to chew the fat. But he did just co-star with Charlie Sheen, who plays the titular character in Schwartzman's new film, "A Glimpse Inside the Mind of Charles Swan III" — a famous graphic designer whose boozing and womanizing leads him to trouble.

So shoe care aside, we had to ask: was Schwartzman ever offered some tiger blood on set?

"No, I wasn't offered any of that. It never came up. Maybe I don't exude that type of thirst," he says dismissively, before enthusing about the troubled actor whose private life has of recent years eclipsed the attention given to his acting work.

"When you talk to him, he talks in the most incredible way — just sort of poetic and goes on these tangents that are incredible and beautiful," Schwartzman says. "He's so bright and he's really inspiring to be around. He's a great actor. A. You're just talented. But B. You also have whatever you're born with. His vocal chords and his face, the whole package is just enthralling."

We'll take your word for it, Mr. Schwartzman.

Heidi Patalano
heidi.patalano@metro.us

A new citizen of Pawnee

Jason Schwartzman will be appearing in the district run by Leslie Knope (Amy Poehler) in an upcoming episode of NBC's "Parks and Recreation."

"It was the best. I'm such a fan of that show and when I found out that I was going to be on it, I could not believe it. ... You walk onto that set and it's everything you want it to be."

"When you talk to him, he talks in the most incredible way — just sort of poetic and goes on these tangents that are incredible and beautiful."

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The Gray Lady closes obvious paywall hole

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▶ No more sneaking by this giant.

After the New York Times introduced its digital paywall in early 2011, some frustrated readers came up with elaborate ways to get around it, including launching a special Twitter feed and browser app. But it turned out there was a much simpler workaround: Just deleting "?gwh=numbers" from the URL gets rid of the paywall banner.

Well, it only took about two years, but the Times has finally put the kibosh on this method. Joe Coscarelli at New York Magazine noticed that deleting these characters no longer worked and later confirmed as much with a rep from the Times.

"When we launched our digital subscription plan, we knew there were loopholes to access our content beyond the allotted number of articles each month," the rep said. "We have made some adjustments and will continue to make adjustments to optimize the gateway by implementing technical security solutions to prohibit abuse and protect the value of our content."

668K

Number of paid digital subscribers across the New York Times' network of publications

In the nearly two years since the paywall launched, the Times has racked up 668,000 paid digital subscribers across its network of publications, which has helped slow the company's decline in advertising revenue.

SETH FIEGERMAN FOR Mashable
The Social Media Guide

In the news

Facebook being sued over 'like' button

Facebook is currently being sued for its use of the Like button, a feature which was patented by Dutch programmer Joannes Jozef Everardus van Der Meer in 1998, five years before Facebook's launch.

The patents were granted as part of the functionality of Surfbook, a social diary created by Van Der Meer that allowed users to "like" each other's content. Van Der Meer has passed away. However, the patent holder — Rembrandt Social Media, LP — has chosen to seek legal action against Facebook, as well as the company AddThis, for using the patents without permission. **EMILY PRICE/MASHABLE**

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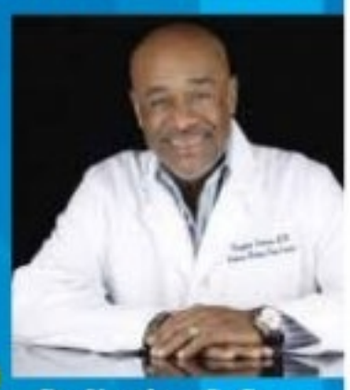
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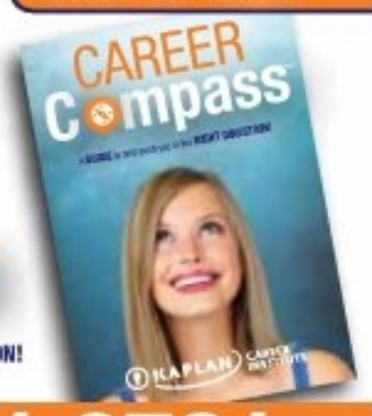
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Donna Karan's collections always remind me of dancers — something about the way her drapey, bias-cut dresses elongate the body strike me as being very Martha Graham-esque. If the choreographer were alive today, she'd look at home in any one of Donna's sinuous jet-black skirts that dance and swirl about the hips. The impressive thing is that Donna's managed to create skirt suits that look about as comfortable to wear as a pair of yoga pants. That's because her tailored jackets come paired with easy jersey skirts that are free of any kind of boxy, boardroom stiffness. It's a classic Donna Karan solution to a common urban working woman's problem. I'm not quite sold on her experiments with texture, however. A chocolate

Trend: Saville Row tailoring

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revs up its engine

brown gown made of collaged shiny and matte silk panels with a leather bodice seems to take things a concept too far. ● KENYA HUNT

3 p.m.
I always love how **3.1 Phillip Lim** gracefully balances just the right amount of tomboy with just enough urban grit and isn't afraid to stick a bow on it. Biker babes are on his mind for fall — not so much Harley-Davidson fanatics, but rather stylish city-dwellers who can't wait to ditch their corporate obligations and hit the open road. Their uniform: chic motorcycle jackets, quilted shorts that hang perfectly so and tough pencil skirts embellished with zippers. These looks are grounded in reality with artful layering (preppy oxfords under shrunken crewneck sweaters under buttery leather jackets), clean lines (the boxy double-breasted coats) and a lovely color palette (sweet pink, warm tan and rich teal). Over-the-knee open-toe leather boots and cross-body bags take the cool quotient into high gear. As I walk out the door, I overhear editors chatting about which pieces are already on their lists. This is one of those times when I wish I didn't have to wait a whole six months to buy. ● TINA CHADHA

Alice + Olivia

5:35 p.m.
There's already a line down the block for the **Alice + Olivia** presentation, or rather, party. Waiters walk around with trays of bubbly or, for those on assignment like, ahem, me, sparkling water with adorable striped paper straws. Glitzy chandeliers and wallpaper transform the dingy warehouse space into an opulent ballroom. I feel like I'm in a nightclub, an appropriate backdrop for Stacey Bendet's glamorous fall line. At least, I think it's glamorous. It's kind of hard to see the collection because the place is packed with editors, bloggers and buyers jockeying for the perfect Instagram or a chocolate cake pop, which are now being passed around. The clothes could almost get lost in the mix, but thanks to the collection's attention-demanding sequins, beaded embellishments and shiny jacquard, our attention stays focused. Standouts include a dramatic ball gown skirt with graphic florals, a sparkly gray sequin sweatshirt and skirt combo, and a sexy bustier jumpsuit with trim tuxedo pants. Wear these to any party and you'll own the crowd. ● TC

8:09 p.m.
Marc Jacobs is perhaps the only designer who gets his audience in their seats not just on time, but a few minutes early. At any other show, editors don't arrive until about 10 minutes after the start time. But tonight, the entire place is completely full at just nine minutes past the hour. That's impressive when you think about the fact that a lot of guests accidentally went to the Armory where he normally shows each season. He changed the time (it was originally scheduled for 4 p.m.) and location due to the blizzard. ● KH

MONDAY, FEB. 11

8:15 p.m.
Marc's girls look perfectly neat and put-together in a mix of tailored separates that come in retro '70s silhouettes and pretty dresses that would seem outright prim if it weren't for their trippy graphic prints. Standouts such as a demure graphic top and matching full skirt or wide-leg pinstripe pants worn under a three-quarter-length naval coat look like good wardrobe additions for college seniors preparing for their first big publishing internship in the city. And now that I think about it, I wore Marc Jacobs for my first big magazine job interview. ● KH

▶ Marc by Marc Jacobs showed retro looks.

Trend: Tomato red

DKNY

Marc by Marc Jacobs

Zero Maria Cornejo

*Metro's style director **Kenya Hunt** and style editor **Tina Chadha** are reporting from New York Fashion Week. Read their daily dispatches for the latest on what's coming down the runway and follow them on Twitter:* **@KENYAMETROSTYLE @TINAATMETRO**

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This Valentine's Day, bring on the chocolate

Keep popping those Hershey's Kisses after Feb. 14 — one a day can keep your blood pressure stable But say no to white

What about white?

White chocolate, made of cocoa butter and sugar, has no detectable polyphenols and no known health benefit — in fact, Vinson says it can make things worse: "Fat and sugar cause oxidative stress in the body."

Sweethearts needn't feel guilty about giving, or receiving chocolate this Valentine's Day. According to University of Scranton chemistry professor Joe Vinson, Ph.D., chocolate's healthy rep as being antioxidant-rich is growing.

"I keep looking for the bad," says Vinson, who was among the first researchers to report that chocolate, especially dark chocolate, was good for your heart. "But I still can't find any negatives to chocolate. Polyphenols are good for you and chocolate has lots of them."

Polyphenols, a class of compounds present in plant foods that have antioxidant properties, reputedly scavenge free radicals that damage cells and make them more vulnerable to diseases like cancer.

But not all chocolate is created equal. It's important to select pure chocolate and not candy bars, and make sure it has a high amount of cocoa solids. The higher the cocoa solids, the higher the antioxidant effect. In his research, Vinson found chocolate containing 70 percent cocoa solids had twice the polyphenols as 35 percent. Vinson advises choosing 70 percent or higher for health.

The consensus is that moderate dark chocolate consumption has health benefits. But how much is moderate?

"I can't confirm an amount for health," Vinson says. "In studies comparing low dose and high dose, there was no noticeable benefit from the higher dose. One study found that blood pressure benefited after one dark chocolate Hershey Kiss. It happened over a four-month period. So, possibly, a low dose of chocolate over time has the most beneficial effect."

PIXLAND

▶ Eat up (the good stuff, that is): A National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Family Heart study showed that people who ate chocolate five times per week were 49 percent less likely to have heart disease than those who ate no chocolate.

"I keep looking for the bad, but I still can't find any negatives to chocolate."
VINSON

Linda Clarke
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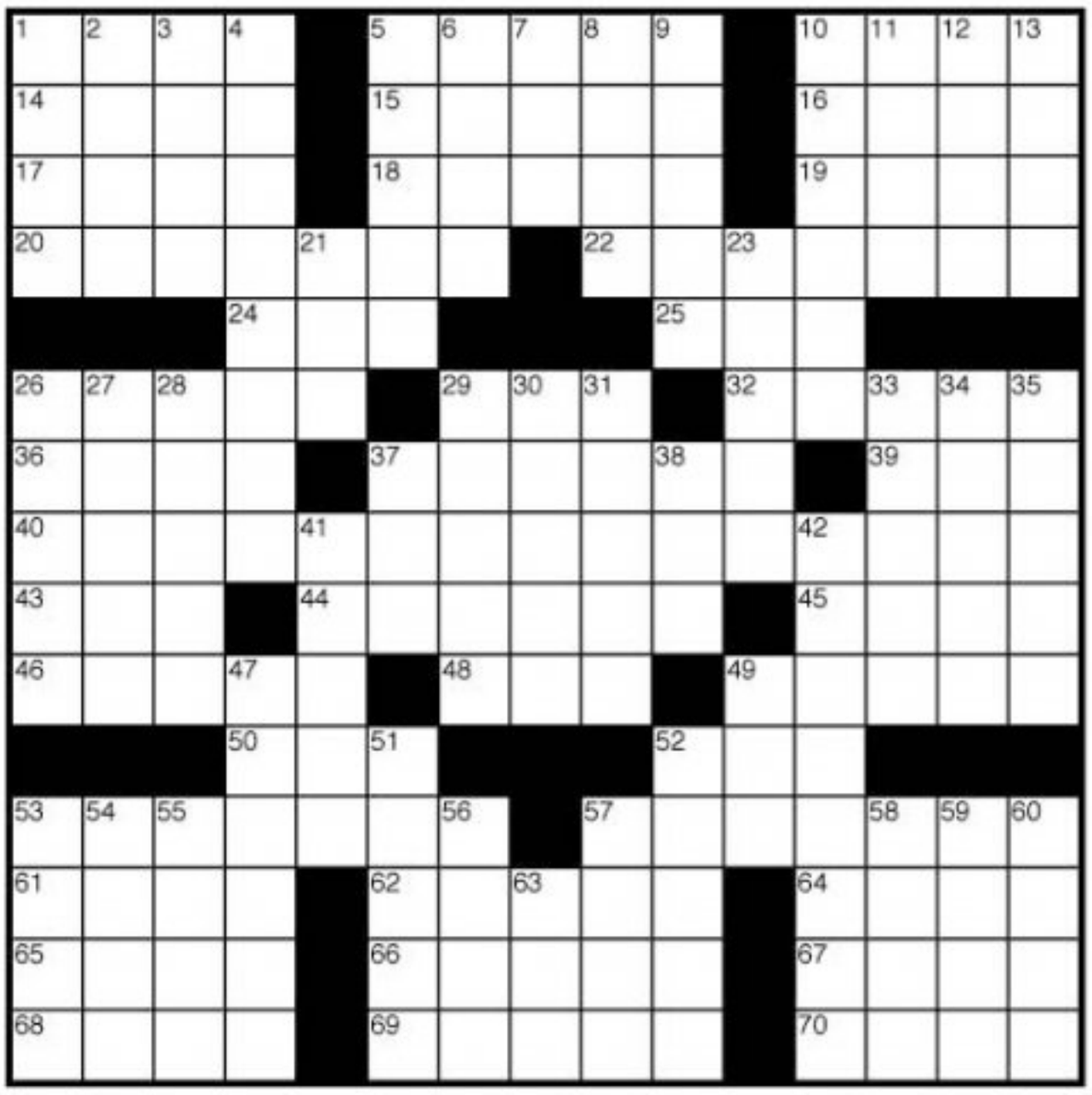

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5 Accolade for a diva
10 Unravel
14 Kind of tradition
15 Moray fisherman
16 Chalet feature
17 Gymnast — Korbut
18 Copy
19 Mo. bill
20 Established
22 "So what?" (2 wds.)
24 Speckle
25 Genetic code
26 Consumer voice
29 Mi. above sea level
32 Snapshot collection
36 Mother lodes
37 Regardless
39 Carioca's home
40 Tigris/Euphrates region (2 wds.)
43 King beater
44 Equipped
45 Behind schedule
46 Spoken for
48 Charlotte of "Bananas"
49 Piano part
50 ". . . the giftie — us" (Burns)
52 The lady
53 Down payment
57 More icky
61 Dr. Zhivago
62 Put off
64 While away
65 Piccadilly statue
66 Swashbuckling Flynn
67 Radar O'Reilly's soda
68 Cushiony
69 Locomotive need
70 Make headway

Down
1 Blow it
2 Woody's son
3 Pasta-sauce brand
4 Mildest
5 Tam
6 Cattail
7 Mont Blanc or Jungfrau
8 Hop, skip or jump
9 Calla lily, e.g.
10 Medieval
11 Assign a rank
12 Reebok rival
13 Bellow
21 Dung beetle
23 Nibbles away
26 Yogurt type (hyph.)
27 Betel nut
28 Actress Bo —
29 Keep — — to the ground
30 Swimsuit fabric
31 A crowd?
33 Sandwich need
34 Rockies range
35 Exit ramp sight
37 Pub pint
38 U.K. lexicon
41 — fatuus
42 Minding the cash register
47 "Me" devotee
49 Marker
51 Fluffy quilt
52 Throws hard
53 Applies henna
54 Large kangaroo
55 Faculty mem.
56 Prefix for "trillion"
57 Earth sci.
58 Brainstorm
59 Grades 1-12
60 Horse's brake
63 Wk. day

Horoscope

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Even though you're inclined to even the score with someone who did something that you deeply resent, try to find out the motives behind this person's actions. You'll have a smarter reaction.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Every once in a while, you're far too generous to an undeserving person. This is one of those days when you might again exercise such poor judgment.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Be extremely selective about the goals you pursue. Make sure they will bring you satisfaction once you've achieved them.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Because of a reluctance on your part to express what is really disturbing you, friends and/or associates could find you perplexing, as well as difficult to deal with. Speak out.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** It behooves you to be more selective about those with whom you choose to associate. Steer clear of companions who have a faculty for making waves and causing trouble.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** For the sake of harmony, try to view things from your mate or other house member's perspective. What's important to you might not be to him.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Having a bad attitude about the day's duties is likely to produce bad results. Putting a smile on your face will make your job quite a bit easier.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Although you may be having difficulty getting someone who is indebted to you to settle his or her account, applying pressure won't help. Find another way.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Be extremely diplomatic when dealing with your mate or an important person in your life if you hope to maintain domestic harmony. Nothing will be gained by bringing up old, divisive issues.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Overstepping the fine line between constructive criticism and nitpicking could produce a situation that will surprise even you. Be more sensitive about what you say and how you say it.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Should you want to make a purchase from a firm that you've never dealt with, make sure the merchandise can be returned in case you have second thoughts.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** If a person with whom you're involved isn't living up to his or her claims, you'll handle it much better if you're congenial. Don't be authoritarian or harsh.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Solution to yesterday's crossword

Letters

Need a new pope? Look no further than NY

RE: "POPE'S ABRUPT RESIGNATION SURPRISES CATHOLIC CHURCH" (METRO, FEB. 13) Pope Benedict XVI has just announced that he will retire. Now as a Catholic and a grand knight in the Knights of Columbus, I was shocked.

I feel the church is facing many issues in our ever-changing world.

I feel, though, there is one cardinal who might be up to the challenges — and that is Cardinal Timothy Dolan. He is a relatively young cardinal who is committed to the church and its people.

He is not afraid to speak out on the issues and he urges more Catholics to do so.

Here in Cardinal Dolan we have a man of God, who is not afraid of controversy and who will speak out for his religious beliefs and who has spoken out for religious freedom for all people. **FREDERICK R. BEDELL JR., VIA E-MAIL**

There's a lot going on

... and Metro wants to hear from you!

- How do you think the **pope's** resignation will impact the Catholic Church and beyond?
- Which parts of **President Barack Obama's State of Union address** did you most agree or disagree with?
- Which **Grammy winners** were most deserving — and who do you think got left out in the cold?
- Don't be shy — we want to know!

Oversight never hurt rights

America put in strict but secure measures to better ensure Sept. 11 could not happen again while still allowing people to travel by air. Can we apply the same decent, reasonable logic to guns in this country or is America nothing more than the land of violent mental patients?

How about we don't ban all weapons or things that could in any conceivable way be used as a weapon, such as a pillow, and we also put in common sense rules about people not having the right to own and operate military-grade weapons or even a cap gun if you happen to have 17 assault charges on your record?

We regulate KNIVES better than we do guns **DOUGLAS BROWN, VIA E-MAIL**

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GOT AN OPINION? SEND US YOUR THOUGHTS

Phillies bring plenty of questions to Clearwater

If it feels like it's been an eternity since the Phillies hit the diamond, well, Charlie Manuel's squad didn't play a meaningful game in October.

You can forget about the 2012 season since pitchers and catchers reported yesterday. Still, there are just as many questions as there are answers for the Phillies in Clearwater, Fla.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ The health of Ryan Howard and Chase Utley are keys to the Phillies' 2013 season. Sound familiar?

Can Roy Halladay return to form?

There will be no Phillie under more scrutiny than Doc, who was injured and ineffective in 2012. Will Halladay rebound from a season in which he said he didn't give the Phillies, who pay $20 million a year for his services, their money's worth? That's the plan. Stay tuned.

And how about Ryan Howard?

The Phillies desperately need the Big Piece to rebound after rehabbing from an Achilles injury in 2012. The Phillies played at a .600 clip in the 71 games Howard played in the second half of last season. Bet on Howard to put up enviable numbers.

Will Chase Utley disappear again?

Utley was absent in March of 2011 and 2012 due to lingering knee problems. The Phillies need a productive Utley, who is in his walk year. He showed up yesterday — three days before position players were required to report — and fielded groundballs. Utley looked fresh and agile in his spring training debut.

Who will play the outfield corners?

Delmon Young is the front-runner for the right-field gig, but there's a lot of time between now and Opening Day. Manuel will undoubtedly go with the hot bat. So will that belong to Young, Domonic Brown, Darin Ruf or John Mayberry Jr. when it comes to the two vacant outfield spots?

What does Michael Young have left?

There is a good chance that the most beloved player in Texas Rangers history still has it. Young is a season removed from leading the AL in hits. The guess here is that Young, who hits line drives and possesses good plate discipline, will be immensely popular in Philadelphia — assuming he can stay healthy and flash the leather at third base.

Ed Condran
sports@metro.us

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Players to watch out for in spring training

Phillies fans know all too well what could go wrong this season. And while there is considerable worry about the veterans, there might be some pleasant surprises for Charlie Manuel.

GETTY IMAGES

Is Darin Ruf for real?
Prior to last August, Ruf showed only occasional pop before turning into Roy Hobbs for the last two months. During the last week of the season, Charlie Manuel expressed doubts, but Ruf is going to get a shot to show what he has — and there are vacant jobs to win in the outfield.

Could Kyle Simon make the team?
This would be quite a story since Simon was floundering in the Orioles' organization. Simon was exceptional in Clearwater after being converted to a reliever. Simon, a prospect the Phillies are very high on, was terrific in Reading, too. If he doesn't make the final roster, keep an eye on him in the minors.

Can Erik Kratz hit for consistent power?
Kratz was a revelation during the last two months of 2012. He's not Carlos Ruiz behind the plate, but he's a big upgrade over Brian Schneider. Expect production from Kratz, especially for the first 25 games, when Chooch is serving his suspension.

If Utley has issues, will Phillies add infielder?
Could Ruben Amaro Jr. call unsigned free agent Ryan Theriot? There is a chance that Theriot could be had for a minor-league deal. "The Riot" is arguably a better choice to start at second base than Kevin Frandsen or Freddy Galvis. Theriot is a clutch hitter, a winner and a tremendous clubhouse guy. He also told Metro that he would love to play for Manuel.

Can Adam Morgan or Jonathan Pettibone emerge if Kyle Kendrick or John Lannan struggle?
You can never have enough starting pitching. Just ask the Red Sox, who gave up Bronson Arroyo for Willy Mo Pena after the 2005 season. Arroyo is a solid starter, and whatever happened to Willy Mo? Exactly. Considering how long the season is, the odds are that Morgan or Pettibone will get a chance to pitch in the rotation.

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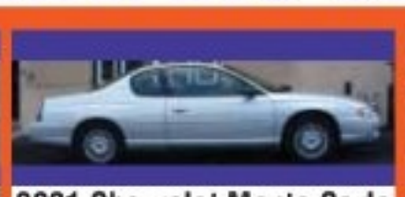
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Vick excited to be back, comfortable with Kelly

Mike Vick is behind Chip Kelly. He's also behind Philadelphia, a city that makes him comfortable.

One day after Vick inked a one-year deal to return to the Eagles, he spoke with ESPN's "Mike and Mike in the Morning" and told the hosts that he feels he can make it work with Kelly and the Eagles.

"I felt as if coming back made me comfortable," he said. "Meeting with Chip for the first time, I felt like as if we can make it work."

Vick said he is familiar with Kelly's read-option offense having watched his Oregon teams play.

"You have to give everything a chance before you count it out," Vick said. "In talking to Chip for the first time ... I could tell he was innovative." METRO

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BUILDING A NEST WITH ETSY

More moms are taking to the Web to customize their children's nurseries

▶ Brandt's alphabet banner can also be customized.

Parents looking to create a unique nest for their babies are turning in droves to the countless shops on Etsy that focus on custom nursery decor and artwork.

"I had looked previously on other traditional sites, but I liked the idea of getting something that was a bit less mainstream," says Traci Tasso, a New York mom who purchased art on Etsy for her daughter's nursery.

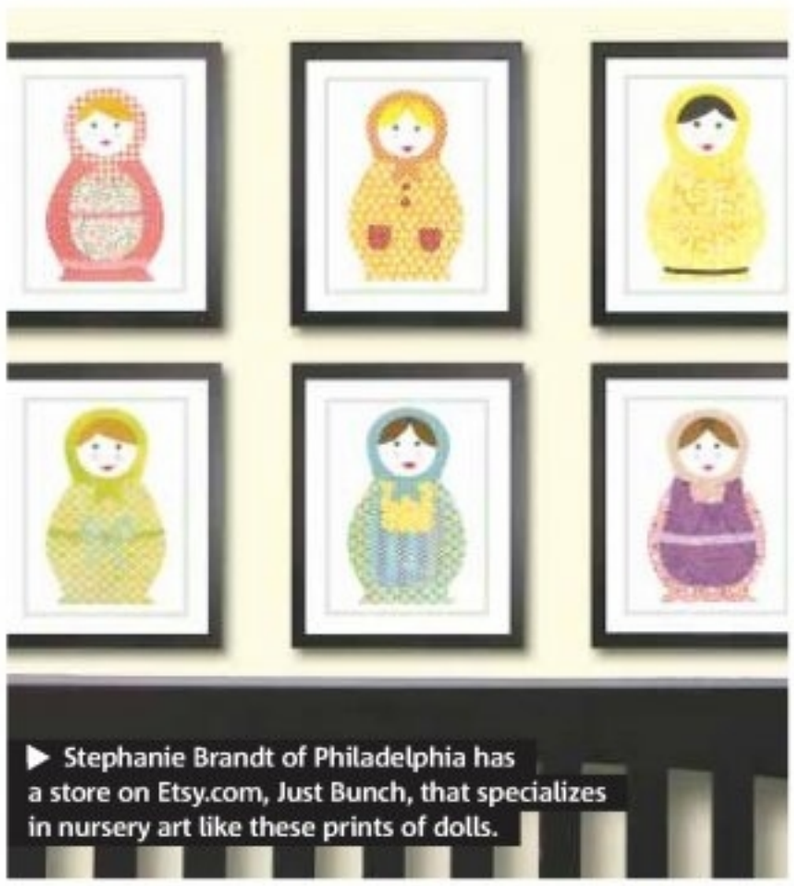
The crafting website has been around for about seven years, but lately more specialists on the site are churning out crafts for little ones. From quilts to baby bumpers, Etsy is chock full of items that can be customized by gender, theme and color scheme frequently at a much lower price than from a local boutique. Moms and dads can best their neighbors' nurseries by having crib skirts monogrammed, artwork created to reflect their boy's favorite baseball teams and canvases painted to perfectly match bedding.

"It's the height of customization because you can get pretty much anything you want," says Jen Snyder, a Michigan mom who sells digital prints at Area Fare Kids on Etsy. "[Parents] have an idea in their mind of what they are looking for and they just can't find it."

The conversation element of Etsy allows artists and buyers to message back and forth and customize orders.

Many of the artists are moms-turned-artists who garner inspiration for their creations from their own little ones.

"I couldn't find anything that I loved in the stores, and since I have always enjoyed drawing and painting I decided to create something for above [my son's] crib," says Stephanie Brandt of Philadelphia, whose store on Etsy is called Just Bunch. "I had enjoyed making the artwork for his room so much, and had received so many compliments on it, that I decided to create about five designs and put them for sale."



▶ Stephanie Brandt of Philadelphia has a store on Etsy.com, Just Bunch, that specializes in nursery art like these prints of dolls.

Christina Wallace
letters@metro.us

Log on

Beyond 128

Two Sudbury, Mass. moms have started a baby company called Twelve Little Laces, customizing arrival gift baskets, birthday party treats and other personalized items. Megan Bowhers and Laura Hoff claim Etsy is a great way to market their company beyond Rte. 128. Twelve Little Laces can be found on Etsy or at **www.twelvelittlelaces.com**

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"Think about it like this: We can't drink from the ocean because it's full of salt. And there's only a certain amount of fresh waterways out there. If we fill them up with salt, too, the world's in trouble," says Judah Press, owner of Save Some Green, a one-stop shop for eco-friendly products on 20th and Chestnut Streets.

Quoted

"Obviously if salt can melt ice, salt and water don't get along so well."
JUDAH PRESS

The problem comes when rock salt, aka sodium chloride, gets into the ground and gutters and, from there, local waterways. And if you're lucky enough to be a city dweller with a garden, keep an eye on your soil: salt can prevent plants from absorbing moisture.

"Obviously if salt can melt ice, salt and water don't get along so well," Press says. "If you put salt in a garden, you'll ruin it."

So what to do? Look for ice-melt products that are designed to be pet-friendly, Press suggests. "If it's safe for pets, it will be safe for humans."

At Litterpaw on 10th and Spruce, Ilya Ahtaridis carries Safe Paw, a salt-free alternative to traditional deicers. It works as soon as you put it down, she says, and also heats up when the sun hits.

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▶ Not only is salt bad for your furry best bud, it also doesn't help the greenery under the snow.

ISTOCK

Not all salts are the same

If you do stick with salt, skip the sodium chloride and opt for calcium chloride or calcium magnesium acetate instead. Like Safe Paw, they're pricier than your standard rock salt but better for the environment.

"There are options that are somewhat less harmful, but it's always better to use just a little," Press says. "Everything in moderation."

Ahtaridis, who owns a dog and three cats with her husband and Litterpaw co-owner, Donnie Broe, stocks Safe Paw to protect pets from paw irritation and upset stomachs. "Rock salt is like licking a potato chip — it tastes good and salty. But if they ingest it, it can cause problems," she says.

Since you can't control what your neighbors chose to sprinkle on the ground, Litterpaw also carries Musher's Secret, a protective paw wax originally made for pups who pull sleds, and disposable dog booties.

Rachel Vigoda
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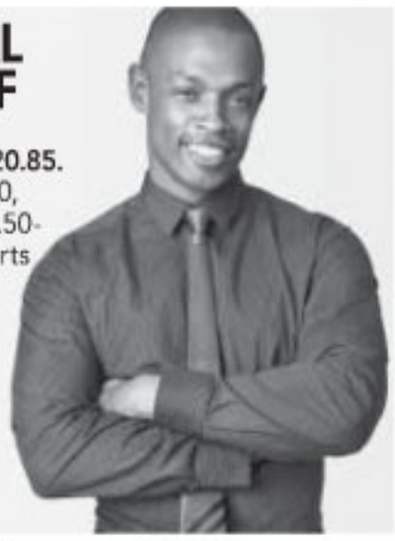

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